

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 20-105

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP.
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES**

Request for Change in Rates

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER OF NOTICE

In this proceeding, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) seeks temporary and permanent rate increases, as well as a step increase in distribution rates. The Commission issued Order No. 26,412 (September 30, 2020) approving Liberty's request for a temporary rate increase, effective October 1, 2020. A hearing on Liberty's request for a permanent rate increase is scheduled to begin in May of 2021.

On November 20, 2020, Liberty filed a Motion to Amend Petition (Motion) to add to this proceeding a request to recover costs incurred to investigate, evaluate, and assess the future development of the Granite Bridge Project proposed in Docket DG 17-198, a project that Liberty has since withdrawn (Granite Bridge Project Costs). Along with its Motion, Liberty filed the supplemental direct testimony of Francisco C. DaFonte, William R. Killeen, and Steven E. Mullen, and a motion for protective order and confidential treatment. Liberty's supplemental filing and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2020/20-105.html>.

In its Motion, Liberty stated that it filed its request to recover Granite Bridge Project Costs in this rate proceeding based on the Commission's statement in Order No. 26,409, issued on October 6, 2020 in Docket No. DG 17-198, that a request to recover Granite Bridge Project

Costs is “appropriately reviewed in a full rate case.” *Id.* at 13. Liberty seeks recovery of Granite Bridge Project Costs through a reconciling charge within the Local Distribution Adjustment Clause.

The November 20, 2020 filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the scope of this proceeding should be broadened to include issues related to recovery of Granite Bridge Project Costs. If Liberty’s Motion were granted, then Liberty’s currently pending request in this docket would be broadened to include a review of, inter alia, what costs, if any, related to the Granite Bridge Project are recoverable through this proceeding; whether Liberty prudently incurred those costs; whether Liberty is entitled to recover Granite Bridge Project Costs through a reconciling charge within the Local Distribution Adjustment Clause; and whether recovery of those costs would result in just and reasonable rates, as required by RSA 374:2, and RSA 378:5 and :7. Because granting Liberty’s Motion would significantly broaden the scope of Liberty’s existing request, we will allow new parties to request to intervene at this time.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Executive Director shall publish this order of notice on the Commission’s website no later than one business day after the date of issue; and it is

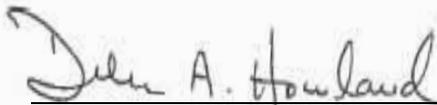
FURTHER ORDERED, that written comments on Liberty’s Motion to Amend Petition may be filed by electronic mail sent to executive.director@puc.nh.gov on or before January 4, 2021; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before December 30, 2020, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties,

privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, any party seeking to intervene may elect to submit this filing in electronic form; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before January 4, 2021.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighteenth day of December, 2020.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 20-105

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Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
Todd.Bohan@fticonsulting.com
pradip.chattopadhyay@oca.nh.gov
william.clark@libertyutilities.com
Matthew.DeCoursey@fticonsulting.com
paul.dexter@puc.nh.gov
lynn.fabrizio@puc.nh.gov
steve.frink@puc.nh.gov
brian.frost@libertyutilities.com
al-azad.iqbal@puc.nh.gov
maureen.karpf@libertyutilities.com
ckimball@keeganwerlin.com
tklaes@blueridgecs.com
randy.knepper@puc.nh.gov
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
jayson.laflamme@puc.nh.gov
Ian.McGinnis@fticonsulting.com
catherine.mcnamara@libertyutilities.com
jmierzwa@exeterassociates.com
Robert.Mostone@LibertyUtilities.com
steven.mullen@libertyutilities.com
dmullinax@blueridgecs.com
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
jralston@keeganwerlin.com
michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com
Christa.Shute@oca.nh.gov
david.simek@libertyutilities.com
karen.sinville@libertyutilities.com
Mark.Stevens@LibertyUtilities.com
heather.tebbetts@libertyutilities.com
dvenora@keeganwerlin.com
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov
jrw@psu.edu